

# Measure Up

Winter 2010

Assessment news for fourth-grade teachers



## Did you know?

- **NAEP 2011 in grade 4 will include assessments in mathematics and reading.**
- **A sample of about 8,200 grade 4 schools will participate in NAEP 2011.**
- **About 365,000 fourth-grade students will participate in NAEP 2011.**

## Thanks, Teachers!

The success of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) relies heavily on the combined efforts of students, teachers, and school administrators.

Teachers encouraging students to be involved and do their best is important because the participation of every student selected is essential to ensure that national performance is accurately portrayed. Teachers play a vital role because they promote understanding of what influences student learning.

Teachers of fourth-grade students who are selected to participate in the assessment will be asked to complete a short survey focusing on teaching experience. School coordinators will distribute the survey in hard copy. The survey may also be completed

online at <http://naepq.com>. NAEP will use this information to report on current instructional activities in the nation's classrooms.

Teachers can use NAEP as a resource in the classroom. Sample test questions and student responses, scoring guides, and more detailed information about the questions are available online at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmrlsx>. Your NAEP school coordinator is your school's liaison for all NAEP assessment activities and can provide additional guidance and information.

## Questionnaires for Students, Teachers, and Schools

In addition to assessing subject-area achievement, NAEP collects information that provides a context for reporting student performance.

As part of most NAEP assessments, three types of questionnaires are used to collect information:

**Student questionnaires**, completed by students, collect information on students'

demographic characteristics, classroom experiences, and educational support;

**Teacher questionnaires**, completed by teachers, gather data on teacher training, and instructional practices; and

**School questionnaires**, completed by the principal or assistant principal, gather information on school policies and characteristics.

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## Questionnaires for Students, Teachers, and Schools

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Teachers are asked to complete a questionnaire asking them about their previous educational experiences and current teaching practices. The valuable time teachers spend completing these questionnaires contributes greatly

to the overall data collected from the assessment. The teacher and school questionnaires are available here: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/bgquest.asp>.

## Findings From the NAEP 2009 Teacher Questionnaires

**71%** of fourth-grade students had teachers who met with students at least once or twice a month to review work and evaluate progress in reading.

**79%** of fourth-grade students had teachers who spent at least 7 hours per week on language arts.

**27%** of fourth-grade students had teachers who spent 7 hours or more per week on mathematics instruction.

**51%** of fourth-grade students had teachers who adjusted their teaching strategies to meet student needs in reading at least once a week.

For more information about the questionnaires, visit <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/bgquest.asp>.

### Sample Questions from Teacher Questionnaire

How many hours of mathematics instruction do your students receive in a typical week?

- a) Less than 3 hours
- b) At least 3 hours, but less than 5 hours
- c) At least 5 hours, but less than 7 hours
- d) 7 or more hours

Approximately how much mathematics homework do you assign to students in this class each day?

- a) None
- b) 15 minutes
- c) 30 minutes
- d) 45 minutes
- e) One hour
- f) More than one hour

## NAEP in the Classroom

With the publication of NAEP results, select items from each assessment are released. Teachers can access the items, answer keys and scoring guides, sample student responses, and national performance results for fourth-grade students using the NAEP Questions Tool at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmrlsx>.

The Questions Tool includes both multiple-choice and constructed-response questions for all NAEP subjects and grades. Sample items from past NAEP assessments in mathematics and reading follow. Additional information about these items can be found by using the Questions Tool.

## Sample Mathematics Item

Write the next two numbers in the number pattern.

1 6 4 9 7 12 10 — —

Write the rule that you used to find the two numbers you wrote.

Solution: 15, 13

Add 5 to previous number for even places and subtract 2 from previous number to get odd places

OR: +5, -2

OR: The odd terms increase by 3 and the even terms increase by 3. ("Every other number skips 3" is acceptable.)



### SCORE & DESCRIPTION

The sample mathematics item shown here was scored as correct (solution and explanation included), partial or incorrect.

The sample reading item shown here was rated as either acceptable or unacceptable.

To see the full description of the scoring guide and scorer commentary, please visit the NAEP Questions Tool at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmrlsx>.

## Sample Reading Item

On a past NAEP assessment, students were asked to read the poem "Treed" by Judith Viorst and answer questions based on the poem. In "Treed", the speaker of the poem writes a humorous description of her experience climbing the tallest tree in her backyard. She explains that it is easy to climb up the tree, but it is very hard to climb down.

Do you think the poem is meant to be serious or funny? Use an example from the poem to explain your answer.

I think it's meant to be both because it is serious if your stuck on a tree but it's funny because she said she'll be stuck in a tree until she is 103.

The full text of this poem can be found in SAD UNDERWEAR AND OTHER COMPLICATIONS, © 1995 by Judith Viorst. Published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division.

# What is The Nation's Report Card?

The Nation's Report Card informs the public about the academic achievement of elementary and secondary students in the United States. Report cards communicate the findings of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), a continuing and nationally representative measure of achievement in various subjects over time.

For over three decades, NAEP assessments have been conducted periodically in reading, mathematics, science, writing, U.S. history, civics, geography, and other subjects. By collecting and reporting information on student performance at the national, state and local levels, NAEP is an integral part of our nation's evaluation of the condition and progress of education. Only information related to academic achievement and relevant variables is collected. The privacy of individual students and their families is protected, and the identities of participating schools are not released.

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## If you want to...

## Visit...

<b>Learn</b> more about NAEP results	The Nation's Report Card at <a href="http://nationsreportcard.gov">http://nationsreportcard.gov</a>
<b>View</b> NAEP data for a particular state or contact your NAEP State Coordinator	The National Center for Education Statistics at <a href="http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/states">http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/states</a>
<b>Access</b> specific results for a grade level, subject, jurisdiction, and/or demographic groups	The NAEP Data Explorer at <a href="http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata">http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata</a>
<b>Find</b> information regarding the types of questions used on NAEP assessments or view subject-specific questions	The NAEP Questions Tool at <a href="http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmrlsx">http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmrlsx</a>
<b>Download</b> a Sample Questions booklet that contains sample test questions for the upcoming and previous assessments	The National Center for Education Statistics at <a href="http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/booklets.asp">http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/booklets.asp</a>
<b>Learn</b> more about NAEP frameworks and how policy is drafted for each NAEP assessment	The National Center for Education Statistics at <a href="http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/frameworks.asp">http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/frameworks.asp</a>
<b>Offer</b> a comment or suggestion on NAEP	The National Center for Education Statistics mailbox at <a href="http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/contactus.asp">http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/contactus.asp</a>